

United States Forest Service, Sawyers Bar Work Center  
25415 Sawyers Bar Road  
Sawyers Bar  
Case No. 1TSI146

**Notice of Proposed No Further Action related to petroleum hydrocarbon discharge.**  
Comment Period ends **February 14, 2004**

**Problem Description:**

The USFS Sawyers Bar Work Center site is located at 25415 Sawyers Bar Road, Sawyers Bar, Siskiyou County. One 2,000-gallon gasoline underground storage tank (UST) and one 6,000-gallon diesel UST were removed from the site in October 1998. The USTs were double-walled construction and were approximately 150 feet apart. Contaminated soil and groundwater was discovered around the gasoline UST during the removal process.

**Interim Actions Completed:**

During the UST removal process it was noted that both USTs were in good condition with no apparent holes and there was no obvious contamination around the former diesel UST. However, obvious soil contamination and petroleum odor were present around the former gasoline UST. Approximately 180 cubic yards of obviously contaminated soil were excavated from around the former gasoline UST, the soil was hauled offsite for treatment and disposal, and the excavation was backfilled with clean soil. The diesel UST excavation was backfilled with clean soil and soil removed from above the former diesel UST.

Soil samples were collected below each end of the USTs following their removal. Diesel was not detected in soil beneath the diesel UST, however, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylenes were detected in one of the two soil samples at concentrations of 1.1 parts-per-billion (ppb), 0.6 ppb and 6.1 ppb respectively. A soil sample collected beneath the former gasoline UST contained gasoline, toluene, xylenes and methyl-tert-butyl ether (MtBE) at concentrations of 3.8 parts-per-million (ppm), 15 ppb, 55 ppb and 6.3 ppb respectively. MtBE (6.3 ppb) was the only constituent detected in the other soil sample collected below the former gasoline UST. The water sample collected from the former gasoline UST excavation contained gasoline, benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylenes, and MtBE at 29 ppm, 550 ppb, 2,700 ppb, 360 ppb, 3,800 ppb, and 46,000 ppb respectively. It was reported that the contaminated soil appeared in the former gasoline UST area appeared to be from surface spills and the water sample was not representative of actual groundwater conditions because contaminated soil was falling into the water prior to sample collection.

In January 2001, five borings were drilled around the former USTs. Auger refusal was encountered in four of the five borings at depths between 19.5 and 35 feet and groundwater was not encountered in any of the borings. Groundwater was encountered in one boring at a depth of 26 feet and a monitoring well was installed. Gasoline and diesel constituents were not detected in a groundwater sample collected from the monitoring well or the soil samples collected from the other borings.

**Proposed Action:**

This site is proposed for no further action.

**MtBE Status:** MtBE was detected in soil and groundwater samples collected below the former gasoline UST. MtBE was not detected in a groundwater sample collected from a monitoring well installed approximately 20 feet of the former gasoline UST.

**Unless comments are received with significant new information, Regional Water Board staff plans to concur with no further action upon conclusion of the comment period. For further information regarding this site, please contact Dean Prat at (707) 576-2801.**